

**Utah Department of Health
Child Care Licensing Program
Parent's Guide to Residential Certificate Child Care**

The purpose of this guide is to inform parents about state child care licensing rules for residential certificate holders. Child Care Licensing is a regulatory agency which conducts regular inspections of and investigates complaints at licensed family child care homes. We encourage parents to discuss any questions or concerns they may have with the child care provider. Parents may contact Child Care Licensing staff with questions or concerns by calling one of the regional offices listed below:

Salt Lake Office: 801-273-6617 or toll free at 888-287-3704

Provo Office: 801-374-7688 or toll free at 800-894-2588



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The **Utah Office of Child Care** is also a good resource for information about child care. They offer a free parent guide for selecting child care. They can also direct you to your local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency, which offers free referrals to parents looking for a child care provider. You can reach the Office of Child Care by calling 801-526-4340 in Salt Lake, or toll free statewide at 800-622-7390. You can also visit their website (careaboutchildcare.utah.gov).

The following pages list some important residential certificate child care rules. For a complete copy of all of the rules, please visit the Child Care Licensing Program website (health.utah.gov/licensing).



Supervision and Ratios

- The provider or a qualified substitute must be physically present on-site and provide care and direct supervision of each child at all times, both indoors and outdoors.
- The maximum allowed number of children in care at any one time is 8, including no more than 2 children under the age of 2.

Parent Information and Child Security

- Parents must have access to those areas of the provider's home and outdoor area that are used for child care at all times their child is in care.
- Only persons with written authorization from the parent may pick up any child in care.
- Parents must be informed of every incident, accident, or injury involving their child.

Provider Qualifications

- The provider must be at least 18 years of age, pass a background screening, receive orientation training, have first aid and CPR certification as required by rule, and complete 10 hours of training yearly.

Child Discipline

- The provider must inform caregivers, parents, and children of the providers behavioral expectations for children.
- The provider may discipline children using positive reinforcement, redirection, and by setting clear limits.
- Discipline measures cannot include any of the following:
 1. Corporal punishment such as hitting, spanking, shaking, biting, pinching, or any measure that produces physical pain or discomfort.
 2. Restraining a child's movement by binding, tying, or any other form of restraint.
 3. Shouting at children.
 4. Any form of emotional abuse.
 5. Forcing or withholding of food, rest, or toileting.
 6. Confining a child in a closet, locked room, or other enclosure such as a box, cupboard, or cage.

Infection Control

- Providers and children must wash their hands regularly.
- The provider must clean and sanitize all washable toys and materials as needed.
- Children's clothing must be changed promptly if they have a toileting accident.
- If a child becomes ill the provider must contact the parent as soon as the illness is observed or suspected.
- The provider must ensure that the parents of every child in care are informed when any person in the home or child in care has an infectious disease or parasite.
- Providers must change children's wet or soiled diapers promptly, and must check diapers at least once every two hours.

Napping

- Infants and toddlers must be allowed to follow their own pattern of sleeping and eating.

Physical Environment

- The provider must ensure the home, grounds, and equipment are maintained and used in a safe manner to prevent injury to children.
- The provider must ensure that a clean and sanitary environment is maintained.
- There must be adequate cooling, heating, and lighting.
- Children must have access to drinking water outside whenever the temperature is 75 degrees or higher.
- The environment must be free of safety hazards, such as toxic chemicals, matches, cigarette lighters, open flames, sharp objects, poisonous plants, and other safety hazards.

Activities

- The provider must offer activities to support each child's healthy physical, social-emotional, and cognitive-language development.
- If off-site activities are offered the provider must obtain parental consent in advance.
- The provider must obtain parental permission before their child uses wading pools, swimming pools or trampolines.
- Awake infants and toddlers must receive positive physical and verbal interaction at least once every 20 minutes.
- Infants and toddlers must have access to safe toys to stimulate their healthy development.
- The provider must ensure that mobile infants and toddlers have freedom of movement in a safe area.

Animals

- The provider must inform parents of the types of animals permitted at the facility.
- The provider must ensure that any animals are clean, in good health and are not dangerous or aggressive.
- Children cannot be allowed to handle reptiles or amphibians.

Emergency Preparedness

- The provider must have a plan for emergencies and disasters.
- The provider must conduct fire evacuation drills twice a year.
- The provider must conduct a disaster drill once a year.

Records

- The provider is required to have the following records for each child:
 1. Admission form.
 2. Current annual health assessment and current immunization records.
 3. Transportation permission form, if the provider transports children.
- The provider must ensure that information in the children's files is not released without written parental permission.